

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 211503Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3297

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USNATO BRUSSELS 0222

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 2121

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AEMR ET US

SUBJ: PSSIBLE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY UNITS

IN EVENT OF EVACUATION

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR WILLIE MORRIS TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT HE CAN IMAGINE A POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN OF GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY IN ADDIS ABABA SO COMPLETE AS TO CALL NOT ONLY FOR THE EVACUATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS BUT ALSO THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY UNITS TO SECURE THE AIRPORT AND MOVEMENTS TO THE AIRPORT. HE BELIEVES THAT IF CONDITIONS EVER DETERIORATE TO THIS POINT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY ADVISABLE THAT TROOPS FROM MORE THAN ONE COUNTRY BE PRESENT HERE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND FRANCE MIGHT BE THE LIKELIEST COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE SUCH TROOPS IN ADDITION TO THE UK. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD OF COURSE BE NECESSARY UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION AT THE UN AND THAT HE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE MUCH OF AN ADVERSE REACTION FROM AFRICAN STATES. THE AFRICAN EMBASSIES IN ADDIS ARE GREATLY WORRIED BY THE POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN OF AUTHORITY IN ADDIS AND FOR THE MOST PART WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY EVACUATION ARRANGEMENT AND/OR FOREIGN TROOP PROTECTION. AMBASSADOR MORRIS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE FOR THE US, THE UK AND THE FRENCH TO DISCUSS THE TROOP CONTINGENCY PROBLEM BEFORE IT ACTUALLY

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ARISES SO THAT ACTION COULD BE TAKEN MORE PROMPTLY BY

ALL THREE POWERS IF IT SHOULD PROVE DESIRABLE TO SEND
TROOPS TO ADDIS ABABA.

2. WE BELIEVE AMBASSADOR MORRIS' ANALYSIS IS SOUND AND
RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY
OF A TRIPARTITE CONSULTATION ON THIS SUBJECT, INCLUDING
PRACTICALITIES OF POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN FORCE OF AFRICAN
OR THIRD WORLD TROOPS.

3. PLEASE ADVISE.
WYMAN

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NNN

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